

△  
~~Sci 2120.96.5~~

The Museum

# BOTANICAL MUSEUM LEAFLETS

## HARVARD UNIVERSITY

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, OCTOBER 25, 1938

VOL. 6, No. 10

### PLANTAE MEXICANAE I

BY

RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES

#### A NEW LEPANTHES FROM OAXACA

#### **Lepanthes Rekoii** *R. E. Schultes* sp. nov.

Herba epiphytica, laxe caespitosa. Caules secundarii gracillimi, apice unifoliati, plus minusve quadrivaginati, vaginarum ostiis infundibuliformibus hispidis. Folium late ellipticum, marginatum, obtusum vel subacutum. Inflorescentiae folium superantes. Flores pauci, succedanei, in racemis brevibus. Sepala lateralia late lanceolata, binervia, oblique acuminata, apice acuta. Sepalum dorsale late lanceolatum, acuminatum, trinervium. Petala transverse elliptica inter lobos cum apiculo. Labellum trilobatum; lobi laterales anguste elliptici, apice incurvati; lobus medius lobis lateralibus multo brevior, dense glandulosus. Columna superne dilatata.

Epiphytic herb, up to 4.5 cm. high. Secondary stems erect, 1.5–2.5 cm. long, concealed by about 4 closely appressed, more or less hyaline sheaths of which each one terminates in an infundibuliform mouth; sheaths hispidulous along the prominent nerves and on the thickened margin of the mouths. Uppermost sheath enclosing the petiole of the leaf. Leaves broadly elliptic, marginate, obtuse or subacute, 1–1.5 cm. long, about 7 mm. wide. Flowering stems overtopping the leaves. Flowers few,

borne in succession in abbreviated racemes. Lateral sepals coherent for about one half their length, broadly lanceolate, narrowing asymmetrically to an acute tip, 5 mm. long, 1.5 mm. wide, 2-nerved, the inner nerve more prominent. Dorsal sepal broadly lanceolate, narrowing to an acute tip, 5 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, 3-nerved. Petals transversely elliptical in outline, much wider than long, with a pronounced apicule between the lobes, 2 mm. wide. Labellum 3-lobed; lateral lobes narrowly elliptic, less than 1 mm. long, distally incurved; middle lobe much shorter than the lateral lobes, narrowly triangular, densely glandulous, concealed by the column. Column dilated upwards.

I take pleasure in naming this plant in honor of Dr. Blas Pablo Reko of Tacubaya, D. F., Mexico, who was co-collector with me on my 1938 trip to Oaxaca and who has been an enthusiastic collector and student of Mexican plants for more than a quarter of a century.

Only two specimens of *Lepanthes Rekoii* were found, one in fruit, and one in flower. It is an extremely inconspicuous plant, growing imbedded in dense moss and lichen growth on the limbs of oak trees in excessively damp, cool rain-forests. The flowers are very small, predominantly yellow, but with slightly reddish veins in the sepals, red petals, and dark red labellum.

Another collection referable to this species was made by Juan Gonzales in Puebla, not far from the type locality in northern Oaxaca. This collection differs from the type in having smaller flowers.

The only species which seems closely allied to *Lepanthes Rekoii* is *L. Dawsonii* Ames ex Yuncker (in Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Bot. Ser. 17 (Contrib. Fl. Honduras) (1938) 327 (Publ. 405)) from Honduras. The sepals of this Honduranian plant agree in shape and size, but not in neuration, with those of *L. Rekoii*, and there are important

similarities in the labellum and column, as well as in the size and form of the vegetative parts. The petals, however, are quite different from those of *L. Rekoii* in lacking the pronounced apicule. The flowers of *L. Dawsonii* are yellow and have an amethyst-purple labellum, while the labellum of *L. Rekoii* is deep red.

MEXICO: epiphytic on mossy oaks in cool rain-forest near Cerro del Fraile, Huautla de Jimenez, Oaxaca, at about 7,500 feet altitude, August 2, 1938, *Richard Evans Schultes & Blas Pablo Reko 336* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 50775); north of Teziutlan, Mt. Tiguayapán, Puebla, at 1480 meters altitude, June 30, 1933, *Juan G[onzales] 2415*.